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Vol. 20, No. 17/February 27, 1998

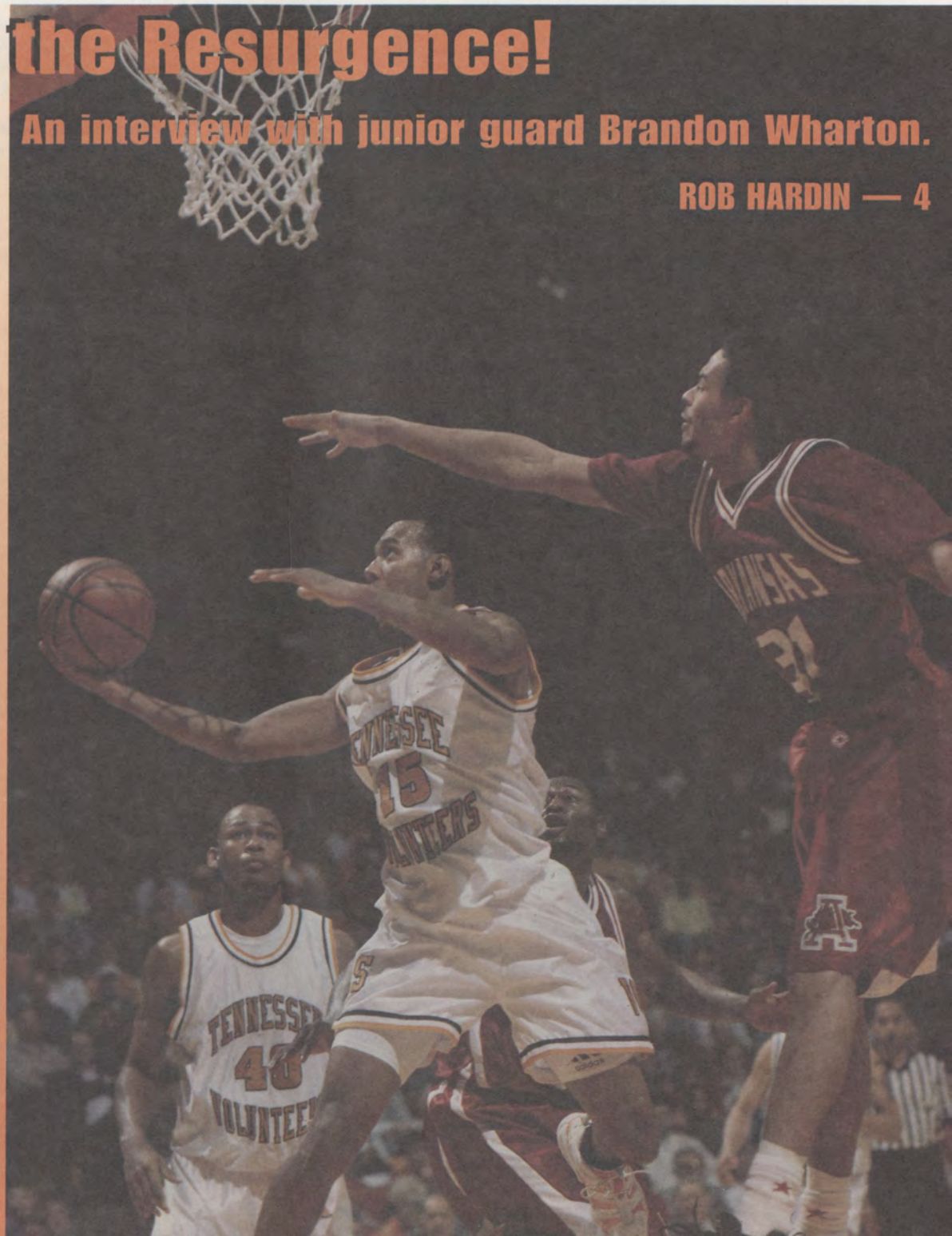
Sm Volunteers Magazine

NEWS FROM THE TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS

Leading the Resurgence!

An interview with junior guard Brandon Wharton.

ROB HARDIN — 4



INSIDE:

11 AQUA VOLS PERFORM WELL AT SECs

—JOSH THURMAN

10 BEN BYRD'S TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF GEORGE CAFEGO

Local Season Ticketholder is 3 Millionth Fan

Wanda Douglas of Sevierville has helped the Lady Vols make history. When Douglas passed through the turnstile at Thompson-Boling Arena on Feb. 14 for the Auburn game, she became the three millionth fan to attend any Lady Vol basketball game ever. Among the gifts she received were two airline tickets, two Lady Vol season tickets for three years and a three-month lease of a Dodge Stratus.

Holdsclaw is ESPY Winner

After missing out on the ESPY award after her freshman campaign, junior All-American Chamique Holdsclaw was golden on her second attempt as she was named the 1997 Women's College Basketball Player of the Year. Since the award was bestowed to her for her performance as a sophomore, Holdsclaw has a chance at becoming the award's only three-time winner.

Holdsclaw Reaches Milestone

On a record night against Auburn, Holdsclaw scored a career-high 39 points. In the process, the junior All-America forward pushed her career scoring total over the 2,000-point mark. By reaching the milestone, she becomes only the second Lady Vol to eclipse two grand in that category. Former Lady Vol Bridgette Gordon owns the school record with 2,450 points.

HBO Air Dates Announced

A Cinderella Season: The Lady Vols Fight Back is scheduled to air on HBO on March 26 at 7 p.m., March 29 at 3:15 p.m., and March 30 at 4:30 p.m. The show documented the team's run to the national championship during the 1996-97 year. The world premiere is scheduled for March 9 in Knoxville at the Tennessee Theatre and will be by invitation only.

Pesek Highlights Diving Performance at SECs

Junior All-America diver Kathy Pesek set an SEC record en route to winning the platform competition at the SEC Championships. Pesek, who tallied 45 of the Lady Vols' 57 points, scored 658.40 in her record-setting effort. She finished third in the same event last year, having won the three-meter competition as a freshman.

Lady Vols Notch Biggest Win In Softball History

After struggling through their first five games at the Coca-Cola Classic in Phoenix, Ariz., the 25th-ranked Lady Vols captured their biggest win in school history with a 2-1 victory over No. 3 Washington on the tournament's final day. UT, which earned its first-ever national ranking in the preseason poll, lost to three higher-ranked teams in its first three games, then dropped two close contests before defeating Washington and then Detroit Mercy, 10-2.

Tennis Moves To 5-2

The 12th-ranked Tennessee women's tennis team got off to an impressive start to the 1997-98 season with a 5-2 record, including wins over No. 28 Michigan, No. 35 Indiana, No. 50 Purdue, No. 59 Illinois and No. 70 Ohio State. The two losses came against No. 14 Brigham Young, 6-3, and No. 15 Notre Dame, 5-4.

Scott-Viyella Named As New Rowing Assistant

Joining Susannah Iacovino's rowing staff on an interim basis is Dawn Scott-Viyella. The wife of assistant coach Julio Viyella, Scott-Viyella will coach the lightweight squad. A native of Miami, Fla., she was a former coach of the Miami Rowing Club and Southern Methodist University and was a collegiate rower at the University of Miami (Fla.).

New Volleyball Assistant Joins Staff

The Lady Vols recently announced the hiring of Brett Thomas as an assistant volleyball coach on Rob Patrick's staff. The White Lake, Mich., native spent the last three years as the men's volleyball head coach at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario. During his career, he also served as an assistant of the women's team at UC-San Diego and both the men's and women's teams at Lewis University.

—Lady Vol Staff

1998 UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS BASEBALL

Tennessee baseball will once again offer choice tickets to some of the most popular home Southeastern Conference Series in 1998.

For $25 - You can watch the Vols take on:

ARKANSAS, AUBURN, FLORIDA, KENTUCKY AND VANDERBILT

With your $25 purchase you can choose from either a Friday or Saturday game in each of the five series. Just think! For $5 a game you will see some of America's best baseball. And what better way to enjoy the game than sitting in the bleacher back seats.

If you want to see baseball at its best, then you need to call the UT Ticket Office at:

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THE FIRST WORD. . .

From the Editor

Manning Named NCAA TOP VIII Winner

On January 11 at the NCAA Convention in Atlanta, University of Tennessee quarterback Peyton Manning was named an NCAA Top Eight recipient, a national award recognizing distinguished student-athletes from the preceding calendar year for their athletic accomplishments, academic achievement, character and leadership.

Joining Manning on a distinguished list of honorees were swimmer Lisa Coole of the University of Georgia, volleyball/basketball athletes Carrie E. Ferguson of Capital University and Kasey A. Morlock of North Dakota State University, track & field standout Obadele O. Thompson of the University of Texas at El Paso, gymnast Meredith Willard of the University of Alabama, and football players Brian Griese of the University of Michigan and Grant Wistrom of the University of Nebraska.

Manning was chosen to give the acceptance speech on behalf of the eight award recipients and here is a portion of what he said:

"Eight of us... eight student-athletes are here to be honored for the significant and often difficult choices we made throughout our college years... decisions and ramifications that often set us apart from our classmates and teammates.

"It is traditional to thank the NCAA for this honor. However, I would rather not. What I believe is more appropriate is to thank our institutions and all of you for the opportunity to play intercollegiate athletics and for the life lessons they taught us.

"It is popular today to ask if big time college sports are even compatible with higher education. The critics ask if athletics is consistent with the educational mission of colleges and universities. Frankly, those people see the walls that limit us, without seeing the spaces that allow us to expand.

"The reality is that collegiate sports have a lot more to do with learning than they do with winning.

As student-athletes, we have learned more than most people about the blessings and lasting pleasure of camaraderie and shared sacrifice, collective responsibility and commitment to excellence and both time management and life management.

It would have been a lot easier to have just been a football player and not just a student and conversely it would have been much easier to have just been a student and left the football for some other day and time.

"But it wouldn't have been as joyous, as rich, or quite candidly, as humbling, to have been one without the other. I would bet you that each and every one of tonight's honorees would say without hesitation that he or she is a better man or woman and a better leader because of those experiences.

"So for all of us, I say thank you from the bottom of my heart, not for a single award on a single night, but for the many memories and molding moments that we have had the privilege to call ourselves student-athletes."

Manning was the first Tennessee athlete chosen for the Top VIII award, capping not only his career but also a period from this past March when he delighted all of Big Orange Country by choosing to return for his senior season as a Vol instead of turning pro.

His decision to stay at Tennessee was universally hailed as a definitive statement on behalf of the college football experience and the true importance of what it means to be a student-athlete.

(For more information on UT Athletics, try our web page at www.utsports.com).

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A Look At The Vols...
LEADING THE RESURGENCE!

In the fall of 1995, Brandon Wharton arrived on the Tennessee campus full of hopes and expectations.

The native of Nashville had completed a stellar basketball career at Overton High School and arrived in Knoxville ready to take his basketball game to the famous "next level." While individually Wharton has excelled at Tennessee, it was not until this season that the team started to make waves in the SEC and elsewhere in the college basketball world.

After the 90-76 win Feb. 21 against Vanderbilt, the Vols have now won seven of their last eight games, including wins over then No. 12 Arkansas and then No. 13 South Carolina. The Vols also have a win over then No. 11 Mississippi.

Wharton's first season on the Hill saw the Vols post a 13-13 regular season record. The Vols then picked up their first SEC Tournament win in two years with a 77-65 win over Alabama in which Wharton scored 18 points. Even though the Vols lost in the second round, they were still able to garner an NIT bid. It was the first post-season tournament appearance for the Vols since 1992.

Tennessee finished at 14-15, and Wharton was selected to the league's All-Freshmen team. His 56 3-pointers were the second most by a freshman in SEC history.

So with one year under his belt, Wharton was looking forward to his sophomore campaign. Brandon again had a solid year, as he was a second team All-SEC selection, and ranked third in the league in scoring with a 16.8 points per game average. He led the SEC in 3-point shooting percentage as he knocked down 43 percent of his long range shots, and he hit 48 percent of his 3-pointers in SEC play.

Brandon Wharton has provided leadership and guidance as the Vols have climbed into the hunt for an NCAA berth, their first appearance since the 1988-89 season.

He also ranked in the Top 10 in the SEC in free throw percentage, 3-point field goals per game and field goal percentage. But as a team, the Vols managed an 11-16 record.

But this season, all of that is changing. It was not just Wharton's stellar play, but the improved play of the entire team. The experience of Wharton, C.J. Black, Torrey Harris, Aaron Green and Rashard Lee, among others, along with their obvious talent is starting to pay dividends. Coupled with that experience and talent is the addition of Tony Harris, Isiah Victor and Del Baker, with the end result being a record of 18-6, 8-6 SEC, after the win over Vanderbilt.

"This season has been a lot different," Wharton said. "I knew this day would come. You have to go through some hard times before you get to the good times. It is not too much of a surprise for me to be winning. It makes me happy to see everyone playing well and the team playing well."

The Vols have also improved their play on the road this season. Last season, the Vols were winless on the road, but this season the Vols are more than formidable away from Thompson-Boling Arena. They picked up back-to-back SEC road wins over Alabama and LSU, and then picked up their largest margin of victory on the road since 1975 in a 87-63 victory over Mississippi State in Starkville.

Wharton was his usually steady self in the game. He had 15 points,

including three of the Vols near record 14 3-pointers. The mark for most in a game by a Tennessee team is 15 which was set in 1988 against Tennessee Tech.

Wharton may have had only three 3-pointers in the game, but he played a hand in at least five others. That is how many treys freshman Tony Harris made. Harris is starting to get into the flow of playing in the SEC and says he owes much of improvement to Wharton.

"Brandon has had a great deal of influence on me," Tony Harris said. "I owe him most of the credit as far as my learning my sets and learning the point guard position. There are times I get confused as to what play to run, and Brandon sees things that I don't see. So he will tell me what play to run.

"When I was hurt, I watched him, saw how poised he was and how he ran things in those two games. I had a tendency to take quick shots, but Brandon told me to let the game come to me."

Harris is the leading freshman scorer in the SEC and has put himself in position for SEC Freshman of the Year honors and freshman All-America honors. It is Wharton who has helped guide him along.

"The guy I go to most often is Brandon," Harris said. "He is the guy with the most experience and knows what to do in most every situation. I am still a freshman and I still have a lot of things to learn, so I go to the older guys for advice."

Harris played a key role in the Vols win over Arkansas which capped the streak of wins over ranked teams. He scored 21 points, and Wharton added nine. But it was Wharton's defense on Razorback Pat Bradley that was a key late in the game.

Arkansas was trailing by three late in the game, and Bradley had already hit four 3-pointers. So it seemed that Bradley would be the man Arkansas would go to.

But Wharton and the rest of the Vols denied Bradley the ball forcing another Razorback to take the shot. The shot misfired, and Wharton grabbed the rebound. Arkansas had another chance to tie, but Green stole the ball to clinch the win.

"I was not going to let Bradley catch the ball on the next to last possession, because he is one of the best 3-point shooters in the league," Wharton said. "Then on the last possession, I saw Bradley on the left wing, saw the ball go across the court, and Aaron made a great steal."

The first win in the string of knocking off ranked teams was special for another reason for Wharton. In it, he scored his 1000th point as a Vol. He joins 30 other Vols who could flat out put the ball in the hoop.

"It means a lot to be a 1000-point scorer at Tennessee," Wharton said. "When I came here as a freshman, becoming a 1000-point scorer was one of my goals. Anytime you can reach your goals, it is a great feeling."

In that game, Wharton equalled his season high with 20 points, including 16 in the second half. Wharton's second of two free throws with 4:25 remaining brought him to the magic mark and gave the Vols a 59-54 advantage.

He received the game ball for his efforts and said, characteristically, it would go, "...wherever my parents wanted it."

Wharton's accomplishment did not go unnoticed.

"The guy I go to most often is Brandon Wharton. He is the guy with the most experience and knows what to do in most every situation. I am still a freshman and I still have a lot of things to learn, so I go to the older guys for advice."

— Tony Harris

"It's great for Brandon and a great accomplishment," Vol coach Jerry Green said. "It shows he has really worked hard on his game. Brandon is a great shooter and scorer for us. He has been an important part of Tennessee basketball for the past two and a half years. His role is a little different this year, but he is still doing a good job for us."

The success has brought out the fans to the Vol games and has caused more than a few victory celebrations, as Tennessee students have poured on to the court at least three times this season to celebrate a Vol win. Once considered placid, the Tennessee students are making their presence felt at TBA. The arena is now becoming a little chamber of horrors for visiting teams.

"The celebrations are getting a little too wild for me," Wharton said. "I had to get off the court, but it was good. Everyone loves a winner, and since we have been winning more people have been coming out. It is definitely more fun to be winning."

Things are getting more fun by the game at TBA and Brandon Wharton is one of the main reasons. He has inspired his teammates to new heights and has been there, a model of steadiness, when his team has needed him. The youngster from Nashville Overton has made a difference.

— Rob Hardin

A Look at the Vols...

Roundballers on a Roll!

It has been quite a stretch run for the Vols, as they have picked up three wins in mid-February and have won seven of their last eight games. The latest victims were then No. 13 Arkansas, Mississippi State and Vanderbilt.

Here's how the men in Orange and White did it.

Tennessee 90, Vanderbilt 76

Rashard Lee led four Vols in double figures, as the junior from Durham, N.C. tossed in a career-high 26 points to lead Tennessee past the Commodores. The win avenged a one-point loss earlier in the season to Vanderbilt (16-11, 5-9 SEC).

Lee came out hot hitting four 3-pointers and totaling 18 points in the first half, as Tennessee built a 46-31 halftime lead, much to the delight of most of the 22,111 fans.

The lead eventually ballooned to 30 points in the second half, before Vanderbilt closed the gap against Tennessee's reserves.

Tennessee opened with the game's first seven points and doubled that margin to 28-14 after a Lee 3-pointer. Vandy answered with nine straight points, but then Tennessee answered back, and Lee's fourth 3-pointer of the half gave the Vols the 15-point half time lead.

Tennessee's offense continued to click in the second half, and the Vols finished the game shooting 53 percent and hit 8-19 from behind the arc. Brandon Wharton and Isiah Victor added 16 points, and C.J. Black tossed in 14 and had 10 rebounds. Lee had a game-high 11 rebounds.

Vanderbilt was led by Atiba Prater with 15 points. Drew Maddux, Dan Langhi and James Strong each had 13. Maddux was limited to only three points in the second half.

Tennessee 87, Miss. State 63

The Vols rolled into Humphrey Coliseum on Feb. 17 and then rolled past the Bulldogs before a crowd of 5,242 and a national ESPN television audience.

The Vols blitzed the Bulldogs (14-12, 3-10) with 14 3-point baskets, a season high and only one short of the school mark set in 1988.

UT shot 58 percent for the game, including 56 percent from 3-point range as the team hit 14 of 25 3-pointers.

Tony Harris paced UT with 17 points. Wharton added 15 and Lee had 13. Black had 12 and Del Baker scored a career-high 12.

The Vols jumped out to a 45-33 halftime lead that was highlighted by eight 3-point baskets.

The lead never dropped below 10 points in the second half and hit 20 at 67-47 with 10:31 to play and it never dropped below that the rest of the game.

It seemed the Vols could do no wrong in the early going as they hit their first six shots and seven of their first eight. They finished the first half at 58.6 percent.

The 3-point barrage continued in the second half. Harris hit the twelfth 3-pointer. Baker followed with No. 13 and Wharton hit No. 14 with 9:13 left to make it 73-52.

"We were going with the flow," Harris said. "We were making them, so we kept on shooting them."

Horatio Webster led State with 20 points. Trey Moore added 14.

The win was UT's first in Starkville since 1990.

Under Coach Jerry Green's leadership, Torrey Harris has shown improvement. Torrey has provided key baskets in crucial moments this season.

Tennessee 74, Arkansas 71

Thompson-Boling Arena has become a site for Top 20 teams to fear. The Razorbacks became the third such team to fall to the Vols, as they joined Ole Miss and South Carolina as ranked teams to lose in Knoxville.

Tennessee jumped out to a big lead in the first half and then held off a second half surge by the Hogs for the win.

After two Tony Harris layups and a 3-pointer from Black the Vols found themselves with a 24-10 lead with 10:41 left in the first half. They continued to build on the lead and it grew to as much 24 points twice in the first stanza. The building of the lead was keyed by a red-hot 62 percent shooting performance by the team including 4-8 from 3-point range.

The second half was a different story though, as the Vols' 45-27 halftime lead slowly evaporated.

The Razorbacks cut the lead to 48-40 in the first three minutes of the half. Aaron Green stopped some of the bleeding as he hit a 3-pointer, was fouled and hit the free throw to complete the 4-point play.

The tenacious defense played by the Razorbacks forced the Vols to shoot only 17.6 percent from the field in the second half. Arkansas finally took the lead at 62-61 when Pat Bradley hit his fourth 3-pointer of the game with 7:06 remaining. The Vols retook the lead with two Tony Harris free throws. A layup by Black gave the Vols a three-point lead, but Tarik Wallace hit a three for Arkansas to tie the game at 65.

A free throw from Tony Harris and two from Black gave the Vols another three-point lead, one they would not relinquish.

Tony Harris led the Vols with 21 points, Black added 17, and Green finished with 10 points.

DOUBLE DRIBBLES: UT's 10-0 record in non-conference play helped pad the SEC's overall mark to 112-28 (80 percent)... Tony Harris is the SEC's leading freshman scorer at 14.8 points a game... He also the top freshman in assists (3.9), steals (1.6) and free throw percentage (72.6).

WEEKEND NOTES: The Diamond Vols spilt a two-game-set with Mercer in Macon, Ga. The loss came in the first game of the series, a 14-13, 10-inning decision. They won Saturday's affair 14-2, using the home run ball en route to the win... Aaron Ausmus received the 1997 Ed Murphey Award during halftime ceremonies of the Vanderbilt basketball game. The award is given annually to track and field's best athlete from the previous season. Ausmus won the 1997 Indoor NCAA shot put title with a toss of 62 feet, 1 inch in Indianapolis, Ind...The men's track and field team held the Tennessee Indoor Classic at Stokely Athletic Center on Feb. 20. The Vols captured the top three spots (Wes Boudreau, first, Scott Perkinson, second, and Lance Jauron, third) in the 35-pound weight toss, and Vol football player Darwin Walker won the shot put event. Other Vols who did well were Russell Frye (second in the 55m dash), Dawane Wallace (first in the 55m hurdles), and Diondre Jackson and Russell Johnson (second in the pole vault).

SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT: The 1998 Southeastern Conference Men's Basketball Tournament returns to the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, Ga. This world-class facility, with a basketball seating configuration of 26,000, will host the 12-team tournament for the second time in league history. The tournament was first held at the Dome in 1995, establishing records in both total attendance (250,301) and single-game attendance (30,057). The 1998 event will mark the fifth time Atlanta has played host to the SEC Men's Basketball Tournament (1933, 1934, 1987, 1995).

The winner of the 11-game tournament will receive the SEC's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. The tournament seeds, conference championship and division titles will be determined by the 16-game conference schedule during the regular season. Teams will be seeded by their divisional finish and features Eastern Division-Western Division matchups in every game should the higher seed win each contest.

—Volunteers Magazine Staff

1998 SEC Men's Basketball Tournament
March 5-8 Georgia Dome Atlanta, Ga.

FIRST ROUND - March 5 (Thursday)

Game 1 Western #4 vs. Eastern #5 [JP] 1 p.m.

Game 2 Eastern #4 vs. Western #5 [JP] 3:15 p.m.

Game 3 Eastern #3 vs. Western #6 [JP] 7:30 p.m.

Game 4 Western #3 vs. Eastern #6 [JP] 9:45 p.m.

SECOND ROUND - March 6 (Friday)

Game 5 Eastern #1 vs. Game 1 Winner [JP] 1 p.m.

Game 6 Western #1 vs. Game 2 Winner [JP] 3:15 p.m.

Game 7 Western #2 vs. Game 3 Winner [JP] 7:30 p.m.

Game 8 Eastern #2 vs. Game 4 Winner [JP] 9:45 p.m.

SEMIFINALS - March 7 (Saturday)

Game 9 Game 5 Winner vs. Game 7 Winner [JP] 1 p.m.

Game 10 Game 6 Winner vs. Game 8 Winner [JP] 3:15 p.m.

FINALS - March 8 (Sunday)

Game 11 Game 9 Winner vs. Game 10 Winner [CBS] Noon

SEC STANDINGS (2-23-98)

EAST

	Conference			Overall		
	W	L	PCT.	W	L	PCT.
Kentucky	12	2	.857	24	4	.857
South Carolina	10	4	.714	20	5	.800
Tennessee	**8**	**6**	**.571**	**18**	**6**	**.750**
Florida	6	8	.429	13	11	.542
Georgia	6	8	.462	14	12	.538
Vanderbilt	5	9	.357	16	11	.593

WEST

	Conference			Overall		
	W	L	PCT.	W	L	PCT.
Arkansas	11	3	.786	22	5	.815
Ole Miss	10	4	.714	19	5	.792
Auburn	7	7	.500	15	10	.600
Alabama	4	10	.286	12	15	.444
Mississippi St.	3	11	.214	14	13	.519
LSU	2	12	.143	9	15	.375

VOL BOX SCORES

TENNESSEE (90), VANDERBILT (76) (2/21/98)

Vanderbilt (16-11, 5-9)

Lapointe 0-6 1-2 1, Bates 4-11 2-4 10, Maddux 4-9 3-3 13, Ford 4-8 0-0 9, Prater 5-12 0-0 15, Langhi 5-8 1-2 13, Williams 0-4 0-0 0, Strong 6-10 1-2 13, Cugini 1-4 0-0 2. Totals 29-72 8-13 76.

TENNESSEE (18-6, 8-6)

Black 5-9 4-6 14, Torrey Harris 1-1 0-0 2, Tony Harris 3-9 2-2 8, Wharton 7-13 0-0 16, Lee 9-13 4-4 26, Victor 5-7 6-9 16, Green 1-6 0-0 3, Baker 2-4 0-0 5, Moore 0-0 0-0 0, Sewell 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 33-62 16-21 90.

Halftime score: Tennessee 46-31. 3-point field goals: Vanderbilt 10-25 (Lapointe 0-1, Maddux 2-5, Ford 1-2, Prater 5-11, Langhi 2-4, Strong 0-2), Tennessee 8-19 (Black 0-1, Lee 4-6, Tony Harris 0-4, Wharton 2-3, Baker 1-2, Green 1-3). Rebounds: Vanderbilt 34 (Langhi 6), Tennessee 41 (Lee 11, Black 10). Assists: Vanderbilt 14 (A. Williams 5), Tennessee 16 (Tony Harris 7). Totals fouls: Vanderbilt 19, Tennessee 13. Technical fouls: A. Williams, Black. Attendance: 22,111.

TENNESSEE 87, MISSISSIPPI STATE 63 (2/17/98)

TENNESSEE (17-6, 7-6)

Lee 5-8 0-0 13, Black 5-8 1-2 12, Torrey Harris 2-3 0-0 4, Tony Harris 5-8 2-2 17, Wharton 5-9 2-2 15, Green 0-2 4-4 4, Sewell 0-1 0-0 0, Baker 5-8 0-0 12, Moore 1-1 0-0 2, Victor 4-7 0-0 8. Totals 32-55 9-10 87.

Mississippi State (14-12, 3-10)

Hughes 2-3 0-0 5, Webster 7-15 6-8 20, Washington 3-8 4-9 10, White 1-5 0-0 2, Hyche 1-6 0-0 3, Moore 6-10 1-1 14, Hamilton 1-6 0-2 2, Roberts 3-6 1-2 7, Myles 0-0 0-0 0, Jones 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 24-60 12-22 63.

TENNESSEE 74, ARKANSAS 71 (2/14/98)

Arkansas (20-5, 9-3)

Wallace 7-16 0-0 20, Hood 3-9 0-0 6, N. Davis 5-12 0-2 10, Bradley 7-19 1-2 19, Reid 1-5 0-2 2, Adebayo 1-3 0-0 2, Walker 0-1 0-0 0, Whitney 0-0 0-0 0, Thompson 3-8 2-2 8, Williams 0-0 4-4 4. Totals 27-73 7-13 71.

TENNESSEE (16-6, 6-6)

Black 6-11 4-7 17, Lee 2-9 2-5 7, Torrey Harris 3-6 0-0 6, Wharton 4-10 0-2 9, Tony Harris 5-17 9-11 21, Victor 2-4 0-0 4, Baker 0-0 0-0 0, Green 2-6 5-5 10, Moore 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 24-63 20-30 74.

Green's Fast Break...

HOOPS ACTION VS. VANDERBILT!

Comments from Jerry Green after a 90-76 win over Vanderbilt on Feb. 21.

Vanderbilt has a real tough defense to play against. I did think we could get some shots out of it. They went to a straight man-to-man defense at times. It was the first time in any of the settings that we have seen that they went to a straight man-to-man defense. They eventually went back to the match-up zone. It is a tough defense to work against because you do not see it very often. It is kind of the abnormal part of college basketball, but Vanderbilt runs it well.

I was glad to be up by 15 points at the half. I thought we really played well. We played well defensively and were physical inside. We made some shots, and Rashard Lee played fantastic in the first half.

In the second half, we did some things that were electrifying. When we up 27, we could have left the best players in, but it is tough for me to do that. When I see Anthony Sewell and Scott Moore working hard in practice, I want to be able to get them some playing time.

We could have finished up a little stronger, but Vanderbilt made some plays down the stretch. But I was not going to take the chance of playing Tony Harris, Brandon Wharton and those guys any more than I did.

It was a good win. It was a good crowd and I enjoyed it. It makes me see that we are advancing a little bit. When Tony Harris comes down, passes the ball to Isiah Victor and he dunks, people enjoy that style of basketball.

We are going to go back now and work our basic defense. We could be better there. It's like a golf game. We get one part of it fixed and then another part of it is not as good as it could be.

I think we can be a very good basketball team when we play together as a team. We did hit a stretch in the second half that we did not play as well as we could play and it showed. But Vanderbilt's defense had something to do with that. It was a good win nonetheless.

We took good shots early and are a confident basketball team.

Tony Harris did not have a high scoring night, but take a look at his assists and then I would ask somebody how many tickets he has sold since he has come to this place.

There are going to be times when Tony Harris does not score for us, and there are going to be times C.J. Black does not score for us. But what is so good right now is people like Rashard Lee are picking up that slack. If you are not a team and just an individual, then maybe that kills us. But now, when we have something fall apart, somebody else picks it up and puts it back together.

Rashard has really been a pleasant surprise. Earlier, he did not have much confidence and he did not handle the ball very well. Individually, he has really worked hard on his game and has really improved his 3-point shooting. He is handling the ball very confidently right now. I am pleased he is playing with confidence. I'd just as soon see him shoot the 3-pointer without the hand in his face as anybody we have. He feels very comfortable shooting the ball and he has worked hard.

It is not just a factor of the team working hard together. It is the sum of the independent parts working hard with each player trying to strengthen his weaknesses. Rashard has worked hard on his game, and he is better which also makes the team better.

The roles on this team are not really hard to define right now because of the numbers we have.

In the past, if Brandon had a bad game, we would shut up the factory and go home. But now, if he has a bad game or if Tony has a bad game, somebody else is there. Rashard was there against Vanderbilt, and Del Baker did a good job against Mississippi State.

Turning a basketball program around is not easy. It is not easy physically or mentally. I would have doubted where we are now if somebody would have told me that during the foreign tour.

It has been just as hard to try to turn around the mental game as the physical game. Believing you can win and believing you can be the best after being unsuccessful is hard to do. It is hard to get confidence that you can play well. I believe we can be better, probably better than the players think we can be.

We are better, but I still want to improve and get more people into the Thompson-Boling Arena.

We are starting to play as a team. We have been successful and the players are starting to listen to the coaches more. Tony matured by watching Brandon run the point for two games and watching film of other point guards running the offense. After we got beat a couple of times, the players started listening more and it is starting to pay dividends.

— Jerry Green

> ***"We are starting to play as a team. We have been successful and the players are starting to listen to the coaches more... After we got beat a couple of times, the players started listening more and it is starting to pay dividends."***
>
> ***— Jerry Green***

Vols Hire New Assistant Football Coach

Head football coach Phillip Fulmer announced the addition of Southern Cal offensive line coach Mike Barry to the Vol coaching staff. "I am very pleased that Mike has decided to join us at Tennessee," Fulmer said. "He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our staff and is an excellent recruiter as well." Barry, 51, has coached previously at Arizona, Colorado and Iowa State. He was a member of the Colorado staff in 1990 when the Buffaloes won the national championship and fought the Vols to a 31-31 deadlock in the season opener at Anaheim, Calif.

Vol Golf Team Finishes 12th in Mexico

The Vol golf team finished the International Intercollegiate on Saturday, Feb. 7, in 12th place in a 20-team field. The Vols fired rounds of 286-293-288-867, three-over par, at the par 72, 6,896-yard Club Campestre in Monterey, Mexico. With the 867-stroke finish, Tennessee shattered this season's previous best tournament score, an 889-stroke finish at the Tennessee Tournament of Champions in September. Three Vols finished at par or better as all but one Vol posted season-best scores.

True freshman Phanthep Somsamart fired his collegiate best 69-71-71--211, five under par, to lead the Vols in 11th place. The Bangkok, Thailand, native, shaved 20 strokes off his previous collegiate best. Junior Kevin Law tied for 24th after carding a 70-72-73--215, one-under par, in his best tournament of the season. Freshman Andy Brimer finished tied for 80th with a 77-76-73--226, his season-best score. Freshman Ryo Fukami shot a 76-78-78--232 to place tied for 90th.

The Vols were due to play next in the Mercedes-Benz Collegiate in Jacksonville, Fla., Feb. 28-March 2, and the results from that tournament will be in our next issue.

Track and Field Squad Preparing for Home Meet

Tennessee's track and field squad sent split squads to the Virginia Tech Valentine Classic and to the Butler University Cannon IV Invitational in Indianapolis, Ind.

In Indiana, the Vols posted outstanding marks resulting from successful performances throughout the day. In the Distance Medley Relay, Vol tracksters Josh Mears, Adrian Wheatley, John Dickson and Chris Hendrix-Buxton ran to a season-best time of 10:10.17.

In Blacksburg, the remaining members of Tennessee's team turned in additional top performances. Tyrone Graham continued his reign as Tennessee's fastest man by turning in a mark of 6.65 in the finals of the 60-meter dash. In the 400-meter dash, Justin Devine and Ryan Douglas once again performed well for the Vols as each ran to season-best marks of 49.55 and 49.47, respectively.

Other Vols turning in solid performances were Garrett Lewis, Brac Salyers, Joe Dickson, Wes Boudreau and Russell Johnson.

Next up for the Vols was a scheduled indoor home meet followed by the SEC Indoor Championships at Baton Rouge, La.

Diamond Vols Take Sweep in Charleston

The Tennessee baseball team took four games while on a recent stop in Charleston, S.C., over the weekend of Feb. 12-15. The Vols opened up play with a 19-4 drubbing of host College of Charleston.

The Vols then took part in the Franklin Life Classic in Charleston, winning all three games to win the tournament title.

In the first game, the Vols held off a hard-charging Old Dominion squad for a 7-6 win. Game 2 saw the Vol pitching staff give up only one run in a 5-1 triumph over The Citadel.

Winning the third game took some doing as the Vols had to rally twice to overtake Western Carolina, winning 9-6 to finish the weekend 3-0.

With the win the Vols moved to 6-1 on the young season, and are currently ranked 11th in the country by Baseball Weekly and 12th by Collegiate Baseball.

—Volunteers Magazine Staff

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Tennessee Tradition...

Ben Byrd on the Vols... Remembering George Cafego!

More than any other player, George Cafego personified Tennessee football in the glory days of the late 1930s.

He played the highest profile position, tailback in the single wing offense, and it was inevitable that his star should shine a bit brighter than even those of such wonderful All-America teammates as Bowden Wyatt, Bob Suffridge, Bob Foxx and Abe Shires. But there was more to it than that.

It was the way he played the game, with a total relentlessness that was the hallmark of Vol football under the great coach Bob Neyland. I can see him now, with memory's eye, cutting back through strong side tackle on Neyland's signature Number 10 play, running past some defenders and straight over others, his tongue always protruding from the side of his mouth. Old No. 72 carried the hopes of Tennessee football with him.

It has long been a mystery how Cafego could have been as good as he was. By today's standards and even by those of his era, he was small and slow. In some ways, he was surpassed by his own backups, in the richest crops of single wing tailbacks in UT grid history. He perhaps lacked the all-around brilliance of Babe Wood, couldn't run in the open field like Johnny Butler, and wasn't the pinpoint passer that Buist Warren was.

And yet, he was the heart and soul of the Tennessee teams that stormed through the seasons of 1938 and 1939 with perfect records. Those were Cafego's teams. There was a time in college football that produced a bevy of superstar tailbacks, or halfbacks, or what ever tag different schools hung on the deep back who usually handled the direct snap from center -- Sammy Baugh of TCU, Marshall Goldberg of Pittsburgh, Tom Harmon of Michigan, Whizzer White of Colorado. George Cafego stood as tall as any.

I once asked him what his true playing weight had been.

"The program usually listed me at about 172, but I very seldom weighed more than a pound or two over 160," he said. "And sometimes I got down in the 150s."

He was the most modest football great one could find. I recall once talking with him about his fellow star, wingback Bob Foxx.

"It's funny," he said. "As great a player as Bobby was, he was very slow." And then after a pause he added, "He wasn't as slow as I was, but he was pretty slow."

Tennessee has not had much luck getting its great players the Heisman Trophy, and I have often wondered if Cafego might not have broken through in his senior season of '39 had it not been for a cruel stroke of fate. He went down with a bad knee injury against The Citadel, halfway through that campaign, and played very little down the stretch. Except for a token start, he had to sit out the Rode Bowl game, Jan. 1, 1940, when the Vols suffered their first loss since late in the 1937 season. Even so, he was the first player picked in the 1940 NFL draft.

The later generation of Vol fans knew George better as an assistant coach than as a player. I can't recall another kicking coach at any school who enjoyed the reputation that he did. The list of great Vol kickers and punters, who developed under his stern but loving eye is too long to go into here, but many of them went on to prosperous pro careers thanks to his always positive guidance.

His approach to football was basic. He had learned his lessons at the knee of the great fundamentalist, Neyland. Once at a Quarterback Club meeting, he was asked what the most important thing about a punt was, distance or hang time.

"Neither one," he said. "The most important thing is getting the dang thing out of there!"

George Cafego came from almost unbelievable poverty and hardship in his native West Virginia to become one of the great college football players of all time. Now the man is gone, but his legend is still with us.

Former Vol

Pat Robinette (1963-65)

Pat Robinette came to the University of Tennessee from Bristol, Va., as part of a recruiting class which included A.W. Davis, Bobby Hogsett and Skip Plotnicki, among others. He was part of a team of rookies which consistently beat the varsity in scrimmages.

Robinette played the point in Ray Mears' system and saw most of his playing time in the 1964-65 season, winning the Tennessee Thoroughbred Award and picking up the Lowell Blanchard Award for the team's Most Improved Player. He was also named the Best Team Player and had the highest free throw percentage on the team (89.7%). That 1965 team led the nation in defense.

Robinette now lives in Knoxville and is principal of Bonny Kate Elementary School.

Pat Robinette led the 1964-65 Vols from the point, on a team which was 20-5. It was the Vols' first 20-win season since 1947-48.

Aqua Vols Prepare for NCAA Competition...

The Tennessee swimming and diving team, doing battle in the nation's most competitive pool conference, came out with a third-place finish at the Southeastern Conference Championships February 15-21. With 515 points, the Volunteers finished behind first-place Auburn (858.5) and second-place Georgia (690.5). Florida who hosted league championship meet for the first time since 1989, finished fourth (468) while LSU was fifth (399).

John Trembley's Volunteers, who entered the meet ranked sixth in the nation by the College Swim Coaches' Association of America, provided a number of highlights at the week long competition. Vol swimmers and divers turned in one school record, a pair of league championship efforts and five runner-up performances.

Tennessee senior Jeremy Linn turned in another inspiring performance in his final SEC Championship meet. Competing unshaven, Linn turned in a Stephen C. O'Connell Center record time of 53.70 on the way to winning the 100 breaststroke title. The SEC Championship is the fourth for the Harrisburg, Pa. native, making him only the third SEC athlete to win the same event four years in row.

In all, Tennessee placed athletes in the conference's top eight 16 times. The Vols also put together 25 efforts that bested the NCAA consideration standard, including new qualifying efforts in two events.

Sunday, February 15 - Tennessee opened the SEC Diving Championships by totaling 50 team points in the three-meter competition to take the overall lead. Shannon Roy claimed the three-meter championship to lead the Vol effort as all four Vol divers scored points and three placed in the finals. After finishing fourth in the morning prelims, Roy returned in the evening to score an impressive 583.60 points, defeating defending champion Brent Roberts of Alabama by over 37 points. Roy's score ranked second in Vol history off the three-meter board.

Gabi Chereches, another freshman, placed fourth (522 pts.) in the event while junior Chip Chiappetta finished in seventh place (498.5) and freshman Karl Warden claimed his best finish of the championships with a 14th place score of 389.90.

The Vol dive team pulled the biggest surprise during the SECs, pacing the Vols to their best start in an SEC Tournament in recent memory. The Vols finished third and await word on the NCAAs.

Monday, February 16 - Dave Parrington's divers continued their strong performance on the second day of competition, as they maintained their overall lead in team points. Roy again paced the Vol effort, this time to finishing second in the one-meter competition. Roy improved upon his seventh place finish in the prelims to score 532.45 points in the finals and rank third in the school record book. Chereches placed seventh (498.25) in the event while Chiappetta claimed ninth (443.85).

Tuesday, February 17 - The final day of diving competition was a successful one for the Tennessee divers as Parrington's young squad finished the SEC Diving Championships with the overall lead in team points. The impressive performance won Parrington his third SEC Men's Diving Coach of the Year Award.

Chereches etched his name in the UT record book as he established a record for platform diving with a score of 802.10. Chereches' performance was good for second place due to the conference record-breaking performance of Kentucky's Paco Rivera (814.50). Chiappetta scored 636.60 points in the platform event to claim eighth place and rank fourth in the UT record book. Roy's 14th place finish and 376.05 points is good for fifth all-time in Vol history.

Wednesday, February 18 - Following a successful three days of diving, the Tennessee swimmers were ready to get in the water. Competing with some swimmers unshaven, the Vols finished second in both the 200 freestyle relay and the 200 medley relay.

The 200 freestyle relay squad of Brendan Crowley, Lance Asti, Adam Engle, and C. Gilliam reached the wall in a time of 1:20.04, finishing behind a Auburn squad that established an SEC meet record. In the 200 medley relay, the UT squad again finished behind the Auburn squad. Volunteers Gilliam, Linn, Zane DeWitz, and Brent Owen finished in a time of 1:27.83, just over one second behind the Tigers. At the completion of the day's two events, Tennessee maintained a solid lead in the overall team race.

Thursday, February 19 - Tennessee fell to third following strong performances by the Auburn and Georgia squads, as only three Vols qualified for individual event finals. Gilliam finished eighth in the finals of the 50 freestyle (20.61). Tom Williams finished the 200 individual medley with a time of 1:49.58 to seventh and the top finish by an individual Vol for the day. DeWitz finished eleventh with a time of 1:49.48 and Shawn McNew reached the wall in a time of 1:50.92 to claim 15th. In the 500 freestyle, Matt Hall was unable to defend the title he won at last season's SEC Championships, finishing tenth with a time of 4:26.22. The evening's final event produced the best showing for Tennessee as the squad of Craig Gilliam, Linn, Joel Shapiro and Casey Quilter recorded a time of 3:13.14 to finish third behind first-place Auburn and second-place Georgia.

Friday, February 20 - The sixth day of competition was an improvement of over the previous day as Tennessee crowned an individual champion in addition to two other strong performances.

Hall opened the day with a fifth-place finish in the 400 medley relay. Hall's time of 3:55.08 foreshadowed better fortunes for the Vols on the day. In the 100 butterfly, Tom Williams reached the finals for the second time in two days, finishing in eighth with a time of 49.17. Crowley and Shapiro also competed in the event, placing eleventh (48.91) and fourteenth (49.12), respectively. DeWitz, the only Vol competing in the 200 freestyle, finished in a season-best time of 1:38.93 in the morning prelims. The freshman returned in the evening to record a 1:39.61 and finish in eighth.

The 100 breaststroke was a source of great drama for fans at Stephen C. O'Connell Center. Linn was attempting to become only the third swimmer in SEC history win the same event for four consecutive years. Adding to the drama was the fact that Linn had decided not to shave for the meet. The Tennessee senior finished third in the prelims, but his time of 53.91 was only four-one hundredths off the time of prelim leader Jarrod Marrs of LSU. Linn's morning swim was his fastest unshaven time ever, so Linn would have truly rise to the occasion in order to once again write his name in the SEC record book.

As has become his custom, Linn returned to the pool in the evening and delivered a dramatic win. Linn reached the wall in a time of 53.70 to establish a Stephen C. O'Connell Center record. "This is a big win for me because the SEC is the top breaststroke conference in the nation," Linn commented following the race.

"I decided not to shave for this race, so to win is big for me. It's a good moment to one of the few people to win the conference four times. It's good to be in that company." Linn joined SEC legends Rowdy Gaines and Mike Heath as the only athletes to win the same event four years in a row.

The 100 backstroke turned out to be a highlight for the Volunteers as well. Freshman Michael Gilliam recorded a time of 47.97 to finish in second place. Gilliam's time matched the NCAA Championships automatic qualifying standard, marking the second time this season that Gilliam has reached the mark. The final event of the day saw Tennessee's 800 freestyle relay finish in seventh position. DeWitz, Hall, Quilter, and McNew combined for a time of 6:42.16.

Saturday, February 21 - Tennessee wrapped up its third-place finish at the SEC's without any spectacular performances. Six seniors competed in their final SEC Championship meet. Senior Rob Strauber, competing as the only Vol in the 1650 freestyle finished in 13th with a time of 16:02.01.

Stringer, another Volunteer senior, finished 14th in the 200 backstroke in a time of 1:48.87. In the 100 freestyle, Crowley recorded a time of 44.87 to claim eleventh place and Asti reached the wall in a time of 45.30 to finish in 15th place. An unshaven Linn was unable to win the 200 breaststroke. Instead, Linn finished third, but managed a time of 1:58.81, a season best. Fellow senior and co-captain Williams finished 12th (2:04.24) and Jones finished 14th (2:05.05). Three Vol underclassmen placed in the finals of the 200 butterfly. Sophomore Hall lead the way with a third-place finish (1:46.78). He was followed by freshman Shapiro in fifth (1:48.59) and DeWitz in sixth (1:48.68).

—Josh Thurman

THIS WEEK IN BIG ORANGE COUNTRY

FOOTBALL PLAYERS RECOGNIZED

On Feb. 13, the 1997 Volunteer football squad was honored at the Knoxville Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Knoxville.

The 1997 Vols claimed the SEC title with a 30-29 win over Auburn in the Georgia Dome in early December and were rewarded for their play during the season with a possible shot at the national championship by playing the Nebraska Cornhuskers.

The Vols finished the season 11-2 and there were many great plays and players who made it all possible. Here are the awards that were presented that evening and their recipients.

Spirit of the Hill Award

Presented annually by the Knoxville Quarterback Club to the Most Valuable senior football player: Quarterback Peyton Manning and Linebacker Leonard Little.

Simpson Theatre Award

Awarded annually to the outstanding lineman and back as selected by their teammates. Presentation of trophies was made by the Simpson Theatres of Knoxville: Outstanding Lineman -- Center Trey Teague; and Outstanding Back -- Running Back Jamal Lewis.

Nationwide Express Quality Award

Given annually by former Vol lineman Charlie Coffey in honor of the most fundamentally sound offensive and defensive players as selected by the coaching staff: Offensive Award -- Wide Receiver Marcus Nash; and Defensive Award -- Defensive End Jonathan Brown.

Mickey O'Brien Award

Awarded annually in honor of Mickey O'Brien, Tennessee trainer from 1938-72, to the senior player who best exemplifies courage and determination in overcoming physical obstacles during his career and makes a valuable contribution to the team: Defensive Back Tori Noel.

Bill Majors Award

Awarded annually to the player who best exemplifies the dedication toward football displayed by Bill Majors, a Tennessee player and coach, who died in 1965: Defensive Tackle Bill Duff and Quarterback Peyton Manning.

Volunteer Award

Awarded annually to the player who enters school as a non-scholarship player and contributes greatly to the team's success during his career: Punter Chris Hogue and Linebacker Eric Brown.

Maryville Daily Times Trophy

Awarded annually to the senior player with the highest scholastic average. The award, which was originated in 1951 by The Knoxville Journal, has been presented by the Maryville Daily Times since 1992: Offensive Tackle Brad Lampley and Quarterback Peyton Manning.

Lifter of the Year

Awarded annually to the player who shows the most dedication and work discipline to improve strength as selected by the strength and conditioning staff: Linebacker Eric Westmoreland and Quarterback Peyton Manning.

Silent Leader Award

Awarded annually to the player who best leads by example on and off the field: Defensive Back Cory Gaines.

Coaches Award

Awarded annually to the player who consistently exemplifies an unselfish attitude, puts the success of the team above his own, yet continues to perform at a high level: Linebacker Al Wilson and Running Back Shawn Bryson.

"All the Way" Award

Awarded to the player who shows the ability to make the unusual or big play that sets the tone of the game: Defensive Back Terry Fair.

Co-Captain Leonard Little was one of many honorees at the football banquet on Feb. 13.

LAXTON PERFORMS SUCCESSFUL BALANCING ACT

In the classroom, not chemistry, philosophy, nor even physics could stop Brynae Laxton. On the court, hitting a 15-foot jump shot, taking a defender off the dribble and crashing the boards also pose no problems. For nearly four years, the junior forward has been able to do all that and more, successfully balancing the rigors and demands of academics and college basketball.

Laxton has played in 24 games as part of the undefeated and top-ranked Lady Vol basketball team, which has won the last two national championships and is a leading candidate to make it three in a row. However, Laxton is also a student, and a good one, posting a cumulative grade-point average of 3.97. Juggling collegiate coursework can be difficult for anyone. The same can be said for playing college basketball. Yet, excelling at both is a true feat few can accomplish.

A standout student and basketball player at Oneida High School, Laxton continued that trend into college, but it was her first year on campus where she was the most challenged in dealing with UT life.

Junior Brynae Laxton has been able to balance academics and athletics, earning a 3.97 GPA.

After struggling through a number of injuries in 1994-95, she was eventually redshirted. She also had "difficulty" in her classes, if that is what you call getting two B+s.

However, after not getting straight "As" for the first time in her life, Laxton rebounded and received a 4.0 the last seven semesters, and has been on the Dean's List and Lady Vol Honor Roll each semester since. The exercise science honors student has received numerous other academic accolades, including the Lady Vol Torch Award for Scholastic Excellence three straight years, as well as District IV GTE/CoSIDA Academic All-America recognition last year and Academic All-SEC honors the past two seasons.

"It is tough to go from class, where you are into your major and possible career, and then go to the Thompson-Boling Arena and practice for two to three hours, but to be functional and happy and enjoy my college experience, it is important to do both," Laxton explained. "I am committed to do both and so far it has worked out well for me."

Her strategy to accomplish the balancing act is simple, never get behind in class and be persistent with her coursework. In order to make this happen, she works closely with Assistant Athletic Director for Academics and Student Life Kerry Howland.

Often, Laxton schedules her classes around what she knows her schedule will be, while only taking courses she knows she can handle with her busy schedule. Her daily routine usually includes a combination of three hours of class and labs, two to three hours of practice, an hour of weights, plus film sessions, performing community service, handling interviews as well as throngs of autograph seekers. Taking everything one day at a time helps, but the assistance Howland and her staff provides makes it easier.

"It is pretty admirable that between her medical problems her first two years and the two national championships, that she has been able to balance everything so successfully," beamed a proud Howland. "She has really found her niche in her exercise science major. I have a tremendous amount of respect for her and the job she has done."

As successful as she has been throughout her tenure at UT, Laxton does have one responsibility she has had some trouble with—guarding All-America forward Chamique Holdsclaw in practice.

—Brad Laux

A Look At The Lady Vols...
FIRST UNDEFEATED REGULAR SEASON!

The expectations for this season were great, and why not? After all, the incoming freshmen class was touted as one of the best classes probably ever to sign with one school, and Tennessee was the recipient of those fortunes.

What it has resulted in was Tennessee's first-ever undefeated regular season. Led by All-America Chamique Holdsclaw and All-SEC freshmen type performers Tamika Catchings and Semeka Randall, and the likes of junior Kellie Jolly, freshmen Kristen Clement and Teresa Geter, and an array of other players that have committed to making this squad one of the school's best ever, Tennessee has laid claim to the nation's No. 1 ranking since the beginning of the season back in early November.

The Lady Vols had a few risky moments, but were able to disperse their opponents because of their athletic ability and sheer numbers that few schools can match.

Case in point. Memphis played host to Tennessee on Feb. 12, and held the Lady Vols in check for the first half, 42-40 in favor of Tennessee. The second half was a different story as Tennessee pumped up the pressure and cruised to a 91-65 victory.

Tennessee was lead in scoring by Holdsclaw, who led all scorers with 31 points, 15 of which came from the free throw line. Holdsclaw also grabbed 8 boards, 3 steals, and 2 blocks in the contest. Randall scored 21 while Catchings added 20 points and 9 rebounds.

Auburn was the next in line to take on the nation's top-ranked team. A great history exists between these two school's, and Auburn had been able to knock off Tennessee last season at the SEC Championships in Chattanooga. The Tigers also had a history of playing fairly well against Tennessee, going 8-16 against Coach Pat Summitt's squads.

On this day Auburn kept the game close with long range bombs and persistency on the boards. Tennessee's lead never reached further than 16 points, and before the half ended, the lead had dwindled to under 10.

After Auburn countered another Tennessee run, the Lady Vols finally put the game away and finished with a 79-63 victory.

The night belonged to Holdsclaw as the junior All-America scored a career-high 39 points and became only the second Lady Vol to ever score 2,000 points. With a little over 17 minutes to go Holdsclaw hit a jumper giving her her 2000th point. The game was stopped and Holdsclaw was given a game ball with a list of her accomplishments.

Each time the Lady Vols made a run, Auburn found the strength to counter it. Catchings added 17 points in the game to aid Holdsclaw, who garnered yet another double-double. Tennessee forced 28 turnovers and collected 20 steals as they proved which team was the top defensive unit. Tennessee led in the paint, outscoring Auburn 50-28.

Next on the agenda was the Vanderbilt Commodores in Memorial Gym. The game had been sold out for weeks, and the rematch was expected to be a great audience for ESPN.

For the first 10 minutes, the crowd and television audience got what they expected. As a matter of fact the Commodores led Tennessee 16-7 at one point. Then the Lady Vols went on a 25-7 run to close the half.

The second half belonged to Tennessee as they dominated Vanderbilt in every fashion as Holdsclaw led all scorers with 28, followed by Catchings with 26 and Randall with 19. Tennessee won going away 91-60, outscoring Vanderbilt by over 60 points in the two games played between the schools.

The final game of the regular season came in front of 22,078 fans at Thompson-Boling Arena, and the opponent was the LSU Tigers. A win over the Tigers would give Tennessee their fourth undefeated SEC season and the first-ever undefeated regular season in the school's history.

Tennessee needed no motivation, other than it being Laurie Milligan's final home game as a senior. She has played sparingly throughout the season due to a degenerative problem in her knee. She did not play like a reserve today. In fact she helped spark Tennessee to an early lead, one which the Lady Vols would never relinquish as they won 90-58 over the Tigers. Four Lady Vols scored in double figures led by Catchings with 21, Randall 20, Holdsclaw 10, and Geter with 16. Fellow freshman "Ace" Clement had an opportunity to put all four freshmen in double figures, but missed two free throws in the closing seconds.

Next stop for the Lady Vols is in the second round of the SEC Tournament, after receiving a bye for the first round, in Columbus, Ga.

—Donnell Field

Lady Vol Box Scores

TENNESSEE 90, LSU 58
(2-22-98)

LSU (17-11, 7-7)
Hibbert 3-8 1-2 8, Howell 5-7 3-6 13, Cieslak 3-5 0-0 6, Dorsey 0-4 0-0 0, Bankston 1-1 0-0 3, Henry 2-6 0-0 4, Brown 3-5 0-0 8, Crockett 0-3 5-6 5, Porter 0-1 3-4 3, Ferdinand 3-7 2-3 8. Totals 20-47 14-21 58.

TENNESSEE (30-0, 14-0)
Holdsclaw 4-8 2-4 10, Catchings 7-12 5-6 21, Stephenson 2-5 2-2 6, Milligan 1-3 2-2 4, Randall 7-12 6-9 20, Jolly 1-4 0-0 2, Geter 7-8 2-3 16, Clement 3-4 2-5 8, Laxton 0-2 0-1 0, Greene 1-6 0-0 3, Butts 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 33-64 21-32 90.

TENNESSEE 91, VANDERBILT 60
(2-16-98)

TENNESSEE (29-0, 13-0)
Holdsclaw 12-20 4-5 28,, Catchings 9-15 7-9 26, Stephens 1-4 0-0 2, Jolly 2-4 2-2 6, Randall 7-15 5-7 19, Butts 1-4 0-0 2, Greene 1-1 1-1 3, Laxton 0-1 0-0 0, Clement 0-0 3-4 3, Geter 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 34-65 22-28 91.

Vanderbilt (18-6, 8-5)
Hillmon 5-12 2-2 12, L Ostrom 2-9 2-4 6, Janky 1-5 0-0 2, Respondek 4-13 0-0 9, Smith 3-9 0-0 6, Redman 2-6 0-1 6, Hammond 2-6 2-4 6, Washington 0-0 0-0 0, Holmes 4-4 3-4 11, Storey 1-1 0-0 2, TOTALS 24-65 9-15 60.

TENNESSEE 79, AUBURN 63
(2-14-98)

Auburn (14-10, 3-10)
Krantz 6-16 0-0 16, Agbatan 4-9 6-9 14, Sparrow 5-9 2-2 12, McGinnis 2-4 1-2 6, Hamilton 2-5 1-2 5, Bernath 2-4 0-0 4, Davenport 2-2 0-0 4, Younger 1-5 0-2 2, Williams 0-0 0-0 0, Askew 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 24-54 10-15 63.

TENNESSEE (28-0, 12-0)
Holdsclaw 15-21 8-8 39, Catchings 7-15 3-3 17, Randall 3-7 0-0 6, Jolly 2-7 2-2 6, Stephens 2-3 0-0 4, Butts 1-2 0-0 2, Geter 1-1 0-2 2, Greene 0-1 1-2 1, Laxton 0-0 1-2 1. Totals 31-58 16-21 79.

TENNESSEE 91, MEMPHIS 65
(2-12-98)

TENNESSEE (27-0)
Holdsclaw 8-19 15-17 31, Catchings 9-16 1-3 20, Geter 0-1 0-0 0, Jolly 1-2 6-7 8, Randall 9-18 3-4 21, Butts 1-1 2-2 4, Greene 0-0 2-2 2, Laxton 0-0 0-0 0, Clement 1-4 0-0 2, Stephens 0-1 3-4 3. Totals 29-62 32-39 91.

Memphis
Smith 5-5 3-4 13, Johnson 4-17 2-2 11, Whitmore 8-10 2-2 18, Collins 0-3 2-2 2, Reed 1-5 0-0 2, Humphries 3-4 0-2 6, Herron 1-4 0-0 2, Phillips 1-2 5-7 8, Burkes 1-2 0-0 3, Totals 24-52 14-19 65.

VASF News and Notes

Barnhart Named Athletic Director at Oregon State

Mitch Barnhart, Senior Associate Athletic Director, was hired as the new director of intercollegiate athletics at Oregon State University in Corvallis. At a news conference on Feb. 12, OSU president Paul Risser said Barnhart is to begin in early March. Barnhart has been with Tennessee since 1986 and helped found the Volunteer Athletic Scholarship Fund. Under his leadership, this fund grew from less than $600,000 in 1986 to more than $7.6 million in 1997. Barnhart turned over the reins of the day-to-day operations of Athletic Development to Mike Hamilton, Associate Athletic Director for Development, in 1996, allowing him to focus more on marketing and administration. The VASF would like to thank Barnhart for all his hard work and wish him the best at OSU.

1998 NCAA Tournament Possibilities

Things are heating up in Thompson-Boling Arena this winter. First-year head coach Jerry Green's charges have made quite an impact in the SEC in 1997-98. Should the Volunteers be fortunate enough to receive a bid to the NCAA "Big Dance," here is what will happen.

Each participating institution receives 350 tickets to the first and second rounds. Official party, band, cheerleaders, and player families are filled first from those 350 tickets. The VASF projects that, if it is able to secure tickets for donors, no more than 100 tickets will be acquired. Tickets will be distributed using the VASF point system.

Neither the ticket office nor the VASF anticipates having any tickets for sale to the general public. **Please do not call those offices.** Below is a list of the eight first and second round sites, phone numbers and ticket information. Tickets are still available for some tournament sites. Ticket availability is as of press time (Feb. 21).

Dates	Locations	Tickets
March 12 & 14	Hartford (Conn.) Civic Center	SOLD OUT
March 12 & 14	Washington, D.C. (MCI Center)	SOLD OUT
March 12 & 14	Sacramento, Calif. (Arco Arena)	916/928-0000
March 12 & 14	Boise (Idaho) State Pavilion	SOLD OUT
March 13 & 15	Atlanta, Ga. (Georgia Dome)	404/223-8990
March 13 & 15	Lexington, Ky. (Rupp Arena)	800/928-2287
March 13 & 15	Oklahoma City, Okla. (Myriad Center)	SOLD OUT
March 13 & 15	Chicago, Ill. (United Center)	312/455-4667

If Tennessee receives a bid to the NIT, please call the ticket office to charge by phone in the days after the announcement is made.

Gift Acknowledgements and Tax Summaries

Please keep your acknowledgement letter that the VASF sends after each gift is made. The VASF only sends tax acknowledgement letters as the gifts are received. There will NOT be an end-of-the-year letter stating all tax-year contributions. Contact the Athletic Development office at (423) 974-1218 for more information.

Making Gifts of Stocks to the VASF

A number of VASF donors have given gifts of appreciated stock rather than cash. Many donors have asked, "Can I give stock to the VASF?" The answer is a resounding "yes," and this could be the most efficient way for you to give to Tennessee athletics, especially with recent huge gains in the stock market. Current tax law allows donors to give appreciated assets and take an income tax deduction based upon the fair market value of the stock on the date of the gift no matter what the original cost. Capital gains taxes could be avoided entirely. Look at this example below.

Bob and Jane Doe have stock that they bought for $2,000 in 1990. It now has a $10,000 market value. They want to become members of the Silver Victor club. They are in the highest tax bracket of 39.6%. Here are their three giving options.

The Doe's Three Giving Options

	A) Give $10,000 in cash	B) Sell stock & give cash	C) Give stock to the VASF
Gift Value	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000
Ordinary Income tax savings in the 39.6% tax bracket	$3,960	$3,960	$3,960
Capital gains tax saved or paid with a 20% maximum capitals gains rate	Not Available	$1,600 paid out	$1,600 saved
Net Tax Savings	$3,906	$2,360	$5,560

In this income tax bracket, the Smiths would realize a $3,960 tax savings by making a cash gift. The least desirable option would be to sell the stock and then give the proceeds to the VASF. If they did, they would reduce their tax savings by $1,600 because of capital gains taxes. If, however, the Smiths gave the stock directly to the VASF, their total tax savings (income and capital gain) would be $5,560. This is 29% more than if they made their gift in cash. Remember that this is an example only. **Please consult your tax advisor to determine situational applicability.** The tax deductibility of some gifts is reduced if the donor receives benefits.

Baseball Season Has Arrived

The ticket booth at Lindsey Nelson Stadium will open two hours before the first pitch for each home game this season. Cash only at the ticket booth please. You may also charge your tickets in advance and have them waiting on you at Will Call if you like. Call the Ticket Office at (423) 656-1200 for more details. Game-by-game ticket prices are $5 for reserved seats, general admission seats are $3 for adults and $1 for students 17 and under.

Baseball Birthday Parties

This year kids of all ages will have the opportunity to celebrate their birthdays in style with Tennessee baseball. Each complete birthday party includes tickets and beverages for 12. Also included are three large pizzas, an autographed baseball for that special someone, a visit by a Tennessee player or coach, and public address and message board recognition during the game. Each complete birthday party is $80. For more information about this exciting new program, contact the Athletic Marketing & Development Office at (423) 974-1218.

— Steve Sams

The Last Word...

On Jersey No. 72 and the Vols!

You never know when a story idea is going to reach out and grab you. This one came on Feb. 11, the night of George Cafego's funeral service at Rose Mann Heritage Chapel in West Knoxville. Cafego died Jan. 9 at age 82, leaving behind a host of memories from a long association with the University of Tennessee. There on the book was the following inscription:

"Frank Kolinsky, No. 72"

Frank Kolinsky was a tackle from McKees-Rocks, Pa., on Vol teams of 1955-57 vintage, who, like Cafego, wore No. 72. It tells you something, but I'm not sure what, that a tailback would wear No. 72 during Cafego's day and 20 years later that number would be worn by a tackle, but, in any event, here's the story.

"I was proud to wear his number," Kolinsky related a day or two later. *"It was an indication of the respect and admiration I had for him, on and off the field. I wanted to let people know how honored I was to share that number with him."*

That says a lot about Cafego, Kolinsky and the Vol tradition. It brought to mind what AD Doug Dickey said at the Tennessee football banquet on Feb. 13.

"I want to pay tribute to George Cafego," Dickey said. "George Cafego was a part of Tennessee football tradition for over 60 years, from the time he stepped on campus in 1936 through his death last Monday.

"We remember him as a player on the first two SEC Championship teams here in 1938 and 1939, through an illustrious career as a coach at Furman, Wyoming, Arkansas and at Tennessee, and though his last years as a 'senior statesman' in our program.

"Whenever they write the definitive history of Tennessee football, the name of George Cafego will have to be on page 1."

It all began for Cafego with an all-night bus ride from Scarbro, W. Va., to Knoxville.

Many stories, each with a different meaning, have been written about how Cafego came out of the mountains of his native state to become an All-America in Bob Neyland's fabulous era of the late 1930s. He would have told you he was unrecruited, uninvited and unnoticed in his freshman year of 1936. The one thing he wouldn't tell you was about his accomplishments as a Volunteer.

George Cafego (center) is pictured with two of his prize pupils, Fuad Reveiz (left) and Jimmy Colquitt (right).

Neyland, the astute military and football leader who died in 1962, often had described Cafego as, "the only practice bum I ever coached who was a true All-America football player. He couldn't do anything in practice, but, for two hours on a Saturday afternoon, he did everything an All-America football player is supposed to do."

It was a wonderful time to be on campus in Knoxville and be a Vol fan. When the 1938 team went 11-0, the only Vol team ever to do so, Cafego was SEC Player of the Year and Neyland SEC Coach of the Year. Cafego was featured in a *Look Magazine* spread on the lure of college football centered around the 1939 Alabama game. Cafego was also a consensus All-America selection that season and was a No. 1 NFL draft choice in 1940.

After a time in the pros and with Uncle Sam, Cafego coached at Furman for a year and was reunited with teammate Bowden Wyatt, the captain of the 1938 team, for a glorious period that saw him at Wyoming (1949-52), Arkansas (1953-54) and at Tennessee (1955-62). Cafego continued on at Tennessee for 22 more years, serving under head coaches Jim McDonald, Doug Dickey, Bill Battle and John Majors, before hanging up the coaching togs after the 1984 season.

Cafego took great pride in coaching the Vol scout squad, as indicated by another reference on the funeral home book.

After a former Vol signed his name, he wrote: *"Proud to have been a [scout team member] for Coach Cafego."* That's not exactly what he wrote, but you get the idea.

Cafego loved his scout team players. In an interview with Knoxville News-Sentinel sports editor Tom Siler, he said his greatest experience was, "working with these boys. It's a great thing to get a chance to be with the boys who are going to be leaders in the community one of these days. Most of the boys who work for me think they'll make it to the varsity one of these days. Many do.

"These boys are part of the team. They make a great contribution. Once they come to realize this, they work hard. Sometimes we move the ball down to the five-yard line and there is the varsity defense across the line. I put the monkey on their backs. I tell them every man on the field is watching to see what they can do. If they want to get on the varsity, right there's the place to make it. Take that ball and stuff it down their throats."

George Cafego knew whereof he spoke. That's what he did as a Vol when he was an undersized tailback nobody wanted. He rose from obscurity to be a two-time All-America selection, a College Football Hall of Fame selection, and a true Tennessee legend on and off the gridiron.

It was a special moment, the night two entries on a funeral home sign-in book revealed a special truth about the life of a great man and the impact of Tennessee football.

—Tom Mattingly

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